**Power generation with smokeless coal**

†3886. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are working on a scheme (FurtherGen) to produce power with smokeless coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also taking help of private sector for the same, and

(d) if so, the details and expected cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. India has, on 3rd of April 2006, signed a Framework Protocol with USA on cooperation on the FutureGen Project initiated by USA as a public-private partnership. This project aims to create the world's first coal-based, zero-emission electricity and hydrogen production power plant.

This is a US $ 950 million project. India's contribution will be US$ 10 million payable over a period of five years.

**Action Plan for Rural Electrification in Tamil Nadu**

3887. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate an action plan for rural electification in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has accorded financial approval to the said plan;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the said plan is likely to be implemented?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir. As per Section 6 of the Electricity Act, 2003, the State Government shall endeavour to supply electricity to all areas including villages and hamlets.

(b) to (e) Question do not arise.

**Subsidy and price of power**

†3888. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States besides providing subsidy have resorted to increasing the consumer sale price of power to reduce the commercial losses of the power sector in the recent years;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the percentage of increase in subsidy from the year 2004-05 till early 2006-07 to each States; and

(d) the percentage of increase in consumer price of power during the said period by each State?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Under the Electricity Act, 2003, the tariff for supply of power to various categories of consumers is to be determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions and in doing so these Commissions are required to be guided by the provisions contained in Section 61 of the Act which, *inter alia*, include the factors which would encourage competition, efficiency, economical use of the resources, safeguarding of consumers interest and at the same time ensure recovery of the cost of electricity in a reasonable manner and also, reduce and eliminate cross-subsidies.

(c) Information is available upto year 2004-05. Subsidy booked for Utilities selling electricity directly to consumers during the years 2002-03

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.